



The **Slate Landscape** of **Northwest Wales World Heritage Site**

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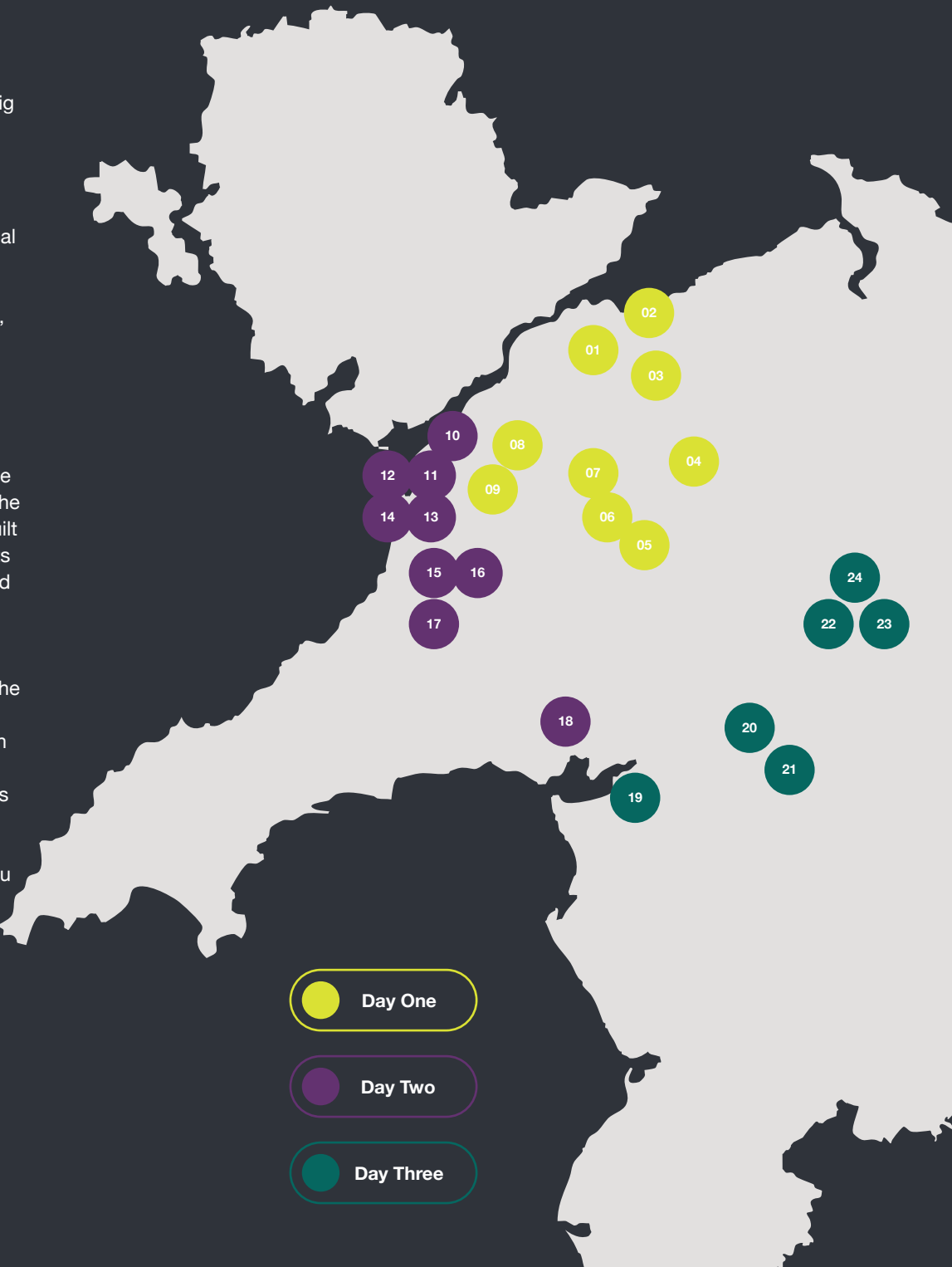
Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
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The Slate Landscape of North West Wales, Gwynedd was designated World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2021. It is a serial property in six parts: Ogwen Valley; Dinorwig Quarry; Nantlle Valley; Gorseddau and Prince of Wales; Ffestiniog & Porthmadog and Abergynolwyn & Tywyn, with each encompassing relict quarries and mines, archaeological sites related to slate industrial processing, historical settlements, both living and relict, historic gardens and grand country houses, ports, harbours and quays, and railway and road systems illustrating the functional and social linkages of the relict slate industrial landscape. It includes spectacular quarry landscapes such as Penrhyn, Dinorwig, the Nantlle Valley and Ffestiniog. It also includes the National Slate Museum in Llanberis, Penrhyn Castle and the famous Ffestiniog and Talyllyn Railways, built to transport the slate from quarry to markets around the world and both later transformed through the dedication of volunteers into heritage railways.

The landscape tells the incredible story of the evolution of an upland agricultural society to one dominated by the slate industry; with towns, quarries and transport links carving their way through the Snowdonia mountains down towards the iconic ports.

To learn more about the slate landscape you can follow our 3-day itinerary to delve into the depths of history or pick and choose individual days to experience a unique and exciting adventure.



● Day One

● Day Two

● Day Three



Day One

01 The Management Centre, Bangor offers 56 en-suite hotel style rooms graded as Visit Wales 4 Star. Located in the heart of Eryri (Snowdonia), North Wales, enjoy stunning views of the Menai Strait and Ynys Mon.

02 Port Penrhyn, Abercegin which lies at the east end of the Menai Strait that separates Anglesey from mainland Wales was formerly of great importance as the main port for the export of slate from the Penrhyn Quarry, the largest slate quarry in the world at the end of the nineteenth century. It was built, and later expanded, by the Pennant (later Douglas-Pennant) family of the nearby Penrhyn Castle. Port Penrhyn remains in use as a working commercial port and still exports slate.

03 Penrhyn Castle This 19th-century neo-Norman castle sits between Eryri and the Menai Strait. The unique architecture, opulent interiors and fine art collection sit alongside a history of sugar and slate fortunes, of social unrest and the longest-running industrial dispute in British history. It's crammed with fascinating items, such as a one-ton slate bed made for Queen Victoria, elaborate carvings, plasterwork and mock-Norman furniture.

The Great Penrhyn slate quarry strike 1900 to 1903, was a culmination of several years of dissatisfaction and unrest in the quarrying industry in the Ogwen Valley. The dispute centred on Union rights, pay and working conditions. It was a bitter battle between Lord Penrhyn and the slate quarry workers, which ripped apart a community and changed this part of North Wales forever.

04 Guided Road Tour from Penrhyn Castle to Llanberis stopping at Bethesda en-route for a knowledge talk from Tour Guide regarding the area and its connections with the Slate Industry.

05 The Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis - Enjoy a leisurely lunch at Padarn Restaurant, named in honour of Llanberis's iconic lake. The Padarn Restaurant overlooks the hotel gardens with distant views of its namesake.

06 National Slate Museum, Llanberis - The National Slate Museum is located at Gilfach Ddu, the 19th-century workshops of the now disused Dinorwig Quarry, within the Padarn Country Park, Llanberis, Gwynedd. The museum is dedicated to the preservation and display of relics of the Slate industry in Wales which also includes slate splitting demonstration, quarrymen's houses and giant water wheel. From strikes and suffering to craftsmanship and community, this is a unique opportunity to glimpse the lives of the slate workers and their families. There is also a Cafe and large gift shop on site.

07 Chwarel Dinorwig Quarry - Guided Walk - will be arranged by the tour guide on the day - (suitable footwear required).

08 Plas Dinas Country House Hotel, Bontnewydd - Formerly the home of the remarkable Armstrong-Jones family, the hotels has ten individually styled bedrooms with five star comforts, in a historic yet relaxed surroundings.

Day Two

10 The Celtic Royal Hotel, originally named the Uxbridge Arms - was built around 1794 by the 2nd Earl of Uxbridge, famous for his successful charge of his light cavalry at the Battle of Waterloo.

11 Caernarfon Town Guided Tour A walking tour explaining the history of the town, from medieval times, Victorian times to present day. The tour includes information about Caernarfon Castle from 1090 to the 21st century, the town walls and Caernarfon's slate and maritime history. You can also learn about the Roman history of Caernarfon.

12 Caernarfon Castle A Royal fortress-palace built on legends and bitter medieval conflict. Caernarfon Castle is recognised around the world as one of the greatest buildings of the Middle Ages.

13 The Old Courthouse, Caernarfon is a newly renovated Grade 1 listed building with stunning views of Caernarfon Castle, offering Lunch, Afternoon Tea and Evening Menus in their elegant bistro - The Bench.

14 Black Boy Inn, Caernarfon has won Bronze awards for best food in Wales and has had many fantastic write ups in The Telegraph and Daily Post. The pub champions a "field to fork" ethos serving the very best food sourced locally from suppliers around Gwynedd and Anglesey.

15 Inigo Jones Slate Works was founded in 1861 to produce school writing slates. Today the company prefabricates architectural, memorial, craft and landscape items from Welsh slate. There is a self-guided tour of the works which includes a video and audio guide presentation. There is a craft showroom, gift shop and cafe on site, also open all year.

16 Cilgwyn Slate Quarry Tip In the Nantlle Valley the development of the slate industry was hampered initially by poor transport links. With the opening of a horse drawn railway to the quay at Caernarfon in 1828, the Dorothea, Cilgwyn, Pen y Bryn, Tal y Sarn and Pen yr Orsedd quarries grew quickly. In the 1860s much of the earlier railway was incorporated into the new Caernarfon to Afonwen main line.

17 Pant Du Vineyard and Orchard is located on the slopes of the Nantlle Valley, Eryri and includes a café and a small on-site shop. With breath taking views of Yr Wyddfa and the surrounding mountains, as well as spectacular views of the sea across Caernarfon Bay, Pant Du is an idyllic location to enjoy the spectacular natural beauty Eryri has to offer.

18 Plas Tan Yr Allt Hotel, Porthmadog - The estate of Tan yr Allt was the first Regency Villa in North Wales purchased by entrepreneur and philanthropist William Alexander Madocks in 1798. He was best known for reclaiming a vast amount of land from the sea by means of constructing a huge embankment known as the Cob. The hotel is less than a 10 minute drive to the harbour town of Porthmadog situated on the Glaslyn Estuary and is rich in maritime history. In times gone by, it was a vital, busy shipping port for the international slate trade, brought down from Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Day Three

19 Portmeirion - Nestled between the Dwyryd estuary and the majestic Eryri mountains, Portmeirion Village is a private village resort and gardens, set on its own peninsula with vistas in every direction and endless pathways to explore, you'll be transported into a dreamlike world, full of surprises.

20 Ffestiniog Railway Originally built to serve the slate industry of Blaenau Ffestiniog, this line used to be operated by gravity. Wagons laden with slate rumbled down the hillside, kept under control by intrepid brakes men who leapt from wagon to wagon tightening or loosening the brakes while their colleague on the front wagon blew his horn to warn others of its passage. Blaenau Ffestiniog, at the head of the valley, still bears the scars of its industrial past with slate tips all around.

21 The Oakeley Arms Hotel stands calm, proud and magnificent, but dig a little deeper and you will find a noisy industrial and destructive history, one that was defined by Wales' grey gold - the valuable Welsh Slate. The Hotel offers traditional Welsh cuisine made with local and seasonal produce where possible.

22 Deep Mine Tour Llechwedd - Take a step back into the 19th century as you're submerged 500ft into the rich history of the Deep Mine Tour, where you'll spend time soaking up all there is to know about Llechwedd's fascinating past. Head aboard the underground train on Europe's steepest cable railway and learn all about this iconic mine's 16 underground levels - including where the famous Llechwedd Cheese is matured, and the 8 underwater levels. You'll learn all about the work undergone by the former quarrymen. See first-hand where the world-class slate was produced by local men and boys, who risked their lives every day to provide the world with this famous slate.

23 Quarry Explorer Tour & Titan 2 - What was Europe's first four-person zip line, Titan 2 has evolved in 2021 to become an exhilarating tour and zip experience, containing 1 kilometre of the same four-person parallel zipping action, while adding an in-depth tour of this historic location to delight all ages. Your visit will begin with the tour where you will climb on board one of the iconic former army trucks. Twisting and turning throughout Llechwedd slate quarry, you'll travel up to an impressive height of 1,400 ft on the area's incredible manmade mountains, while taking in the sights of the authentic, industrial landscape. The tour lasts 45 minutes. After exploring the area dotted with quarry mills and cutting sheds, you'll kit up ready for your double zip line descent. Travelling over 1 kilometre with stunning views of the quarry below and Blaenau Ffestiniog with Eryri beyond, you'll speed back down to earth in a seated position - all the better for enjoying those panoramic vistas.

24 Plas Weunydd Hotel Located within the UK's newest UNESCO World Heritage Site and Zip World Llechwedd, Plas Weunydd is a four star boutique accommodation comprising of twenty-four stylish rooms, bar & restaurant. At Plas Weunydd, you'll find a room for all occasions. From single rooms, inter-connected family suites and even dog friendly spaces, the hotel is the perfect place to relax, grab a drink & a bite to eat, and watch the world zip by.

Day One - Dyffryn Peris/ Dyffryn Ogwen

Explore the rich history and culture of North Wales through its renowned Welsh Slate Industry. Journey back in time to witness the creation of quarries and vibrant cultural communities, all of which shaped the area's post-industrial landscape. Follow our 3-day itinerary to delve into the depths of history or pick and choose individual days to experience a unique and exciting adventure.

ITINERARY

Overnight stay at the Management Centre, Bangor

Guest Accommodation  ★★★★★ (Sat Nav LL57 2DG)

09.30 - 10.30

Guided Tour at Port Penrhyn Tour Guide

10.30 - 10.35

Transfer to Penrhyn Castle
(Sat Nav LL57 4HN)

10.35 - 12.15

Penrhyn Castle and Grounds

Quality Assured 

Coffee at the Tearoom

12.15 - 13.00

Transfer to Llanberis stopping at Bethesda to learn about the slate heritage in the town with Tour Guide
(Sat Nav LL57 3AR)

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch at Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis

Hotel  ★★★★★ (Sat Nav LL55 1TY)

14.00 - 15.30

National Slate Museum, Llanberis

Quality Assured  (Sat Nav LL55 4TY)

Coffee at the Slate Museum cafe

15.30 - 16.30

Chwarel Dinorwig Quarry Walk
with Tour Guide

Overnight

Plas Dinas Country House Hotel,
Bontnewydd

Hotel  ★★★★★ (Sat Nav LL54 7YF)

Dinner at The Gun Room
Or alternative

Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon

Hotel  ★★★★★ (Sat Nav LL55 1AY)

Dinner at the Black Boy Inn, Caernarfon

Inn  ★★★★★ (Sat Nav LL55 1RW)



Day Two - Dyffryn Nantlle

Explore the rich history and culture of North Wales through its renowned Welsh Slate Industry. Journey back in time to witness the creation of quarries and vibrant cultural communities, all of which shaped the area's post-industrial landscape. Follow our 3-day itinerary to delve into the depths of history or pick and choose individual days to experience a unique and exciting adventure.

ITINERARY

Overnight stay at Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon

Hotel  ★★★★★ (Sat Nav LL55 1AY)

09.30 - 10.30

Guided walk of Caernarfon Town including medieval and Victorian historic points of interest
(Sat Nav LL55 2YD)

10.30 - 11.45

Caernarfon Castle World Heritage Site and Royal Welsh Fusiliers Museum

Quality Assured  (Sat Nav LL55 2AY)

11.45 - 13.00

Lunch at The Old Courthouse, Caernarfon
(Sat Nav LL55 2AY)
or Black Boy Inn, Caernarfon
(Sat Nav LL55 1RW)

13.10 - 13.45

Inigo Jones Slate Works - The Slate Workshop

Quality Assured  (Sat Nav LL55 7SY)

13.45 - 14.10

Cilgwyn Slate Quarry Tip and Guided Talk
(Sat Nav LL54 7SF)


14.10 - 14.20

Transfer to Pant Du Vineyard (tours only avail Jun - Sept)
(Sat Nav LL54 6HE)

14.20 - 16.00

Pant Du Vineyard Tour and Afternoon tea
(Sat Nav LL54 6HE)

Overnight

Plas Tan yr Allt Hotel, Porthmadog
Listed  (Sat Nav LL49 9RG)

Or alternative accommodation available at

The Golden Fleece Inn, Tremadog

Inn  ★★★★★ (Sat Nav LL49 9RB)



Day Three - Porthmadog - Ffestiniog

Explore the rich history and culture of North Wales through its renowned Welsh Slate Industry. Journey back in time to witness the creation of quarries and vibrant cultural communities, all of which shaped the area's post-industrial landscape. Follow our 3-day itinerary to delve into the depths of history or pick and choose individual days to experience a unique and exciting adventure.

ITINERARY

Overnight stay at Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon

Hotel  ★★★★★

09.00 - 10.00

Visit around the Village of Portmeirion

Quality Assured 

10.00 - 10.15

Transfer to Porthmadog Harbour
(Sat Nav LL49 9LU)

10.15 - 10.45

Visit to the Porthmadog Harbour

10.45 - 11.55

Porthmadog – Blaenau Ffestiniog
aboard Ffestiniog Railway
(Sat Nav LL49 9NF)

12.00 - 13.45

Lunch at The Oakeley Arms Hotel,
Blaenau Ffestiniog

Inn  ★★★★★ (Sat Nav LL41 3YU)

13.45 - 14.00

Transfer to Llechwedd Zip World
(Sat Nav LL32 8LX)

14.00 - 15.30

Deep Mine Tour Llechwedd

Quality Assured 

15.30 - 17.30

Quarry Explorer and Titan 2
(for those not wishing to do the Zip Wire, guests
may remain at base camp and take a browse
through the gift shop and a look around the site.)

Quality Assured 

Overnight

Plas Weunydd Hotel, Blaenau Ffestiniog

Hotel  ★★★★★

Dinner at Hotel

Or alternative accommodation

The Royal Sportsman, Porthmadog

Hotel  ★★★★★ (Sat Nav L49 9HB)



To Book contact
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and **01492 531731**



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
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